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DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

August 31, 1990

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist *HUS*

RE: Meeting with Hecla Mining Company, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

On August 30, 1990, representatives from Hecla Mining Company, Mr. Bryan Johnson and Mr. Brent Willoughby, met with the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) staff (myself, Wayne Hedberg, and Lowell Braxton) the Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC) staff (Fred Pearson and Mac Croft) and Steve Brooks of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The meeting was held to discuss the decommissioning and reclamation of Hecla's Escalante Mine tailings pond.

Hecla agreed to assemble and submit to BWPC, a new document containing all pertinent and supportive technical information that has previously been submitted to the regulatory agencies regarding the design, construction and monitoring of the impoundment. Before Hecla initiates final pond reclamation, the Bureau will reevaluate this information and make a decision whether detoxifying the tailings will be required. The Bureau will also decide whether Hecla will need to file an application for a groundwater discharge permit for the facility.

The operator is anxious to initiate reclamation and negotiated a revised proposal with the Division and BLM for an acceptable cap/cover to be constructed on the pond. The cap would consist of a 6 - 8 inch layer of compacted clay over the tailings, followed by 12 inches of subsoil, and topped with 4 - 6 inches of stockpiled topsoil. Hecla agreed to incorporate @3000-4000 lbs./acre of native hay into the topsoil and subsoil layer to increase the soil moisture holding potential.

We explained to the operator that this would be acceptable as long as we conditioned the approval with language requiring that the operator amend the site appropriately should the initial revegetation prove unsuccessful. This could include acquiring and applying additional topsoil, if determined the cause for failure. Mr. Johnson indicated he would present the latest capping scenario to Hecla management, and if acceptable, they would begin drafting final design drawings and reclamation details for the ultimate closure of the tailings impoundment.

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Hecla provided some supplemental information during the meeting which included recent (August 1990) laboratory analysis of tailing samples. The results indicated an overall decrease in the WAD and total cyanide levels since earlier samples were evaluated in June 1989. At the end of the meeting, I asked Hecla to prepare a final reclamation seedmix proposal for the impoundment and submit it for DOGM and BLM review. In the meantime, I indicated I would check my vegetation references and send any supplemental seedmix recommendations that were appropriate to Hecla.

jb

cc: Bryan Johnson, Hecla
Brent Willoughby, Hecla
Fred Pearson, BWPC
Steve Brooks, BLM
Lowell Braxton
Wayne Hedberg

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